

## THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

Second Report of Generals Steedman and Fullerton in Support of My Policy."

AUGUSTA, Ga., June 6, 1866.  
Gen. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

SIR: We have the honor to submit the following report of our inspection of the operations of the Freedmen's Bureau in the Military Department of North Carolina and Florida, and the condition of the freedmen's settlements on the Sea Islands and sea-coast of South Carolina under Gen. Sherman's order.

We did not visit many of the Bureau posts in this State, owing to the inaccessibility of their stations, but confined our inspection mainly to the districts the boundaries of which are at Columbia, Charleston and Hamburg. The number of negroes employed by us is attached to the Bureau in South Carolina.

One Brigadier-General, Assistant-Commissioner of the Bureau.

STAFF OF ASSISTANT-COMMISSIONERS.—One Lieutenant-Colonel, one Major, six captains, one Lieutenant, one Chaplain and one Surgeon.

ON DUTY AS ASSISTANT-COMMISSIONERS OF THE BUREAU.—One Colonel, two Lieutenant-Colonels, two Majors, seven Captains, six First Lieutenants, Seven Second Lieutenants, and One Third Lieutenant—THREE Lieutenants.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT—Three Surgeons, U. S. Volunteers, Fifteen Assistant-Surgeons.

Clerical Staff.—Ten clerks at an average pay of \$1 per day; 300, one record agent at a monthly pay of \$50; one clerk at a monthly pay of \$40; one stenographer at a monthly pay of \$60; one Superintendent of Education at a monthly pay of \$60; one printer at a monthly pay of \$100; one record agent at a monthly pay of \$100; 30 clerks at an average pay of \$1 per month of \$100.

In the list of officers in the military service, on duty with the Bureau in South Carolina, Brevoort Royal is omitted, in order that the sum of pay each may be determined by the pay as named.

The number of freedmen to whom rations have been issued in the Department of South Carolina for each month since the 1st of December, 1865, are:

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
In December.....	3,032	2,025	5,377	10,434
In January.....	2,560	2,841	5,055	7,056
In February.....	2,731	2,756	4,908	7,495
In March.....	2,610	2,012	4,025	6,647
In April.....	2,842	1,742	3,141	7,777

The number of refugees to whom rations have been issued

are:

Men. Women. Children. Total.

In December..... 24 42 114 180

In January..... 7 102 109 208

In February..... 30 183 247 468

In March..... 24 167 249 420

In April..... 26 267 431 740

It will be perceived by reference to the above statement that, in our opinion, the present administration of the Bureau, upon entering upon the discharge of his duties greatly reduces the issue of rations to freedmen. The supplies furnished consist of pork, bacon, fresh beef, flour or soft bread, rice, bread, corn meal, beans, peas, and hominy, sugar, coffee, tea, soap, salt, and other articles of food, and are very well calculated to meet the wants of the freedmen.

The number of rations issued by the Bureau to the freedmen, while employing former means to induce the freedmen to labor, instead of encouraging them to depend upon the Government, is now, however, going straight.

We think there is no necessity for the issuing of rations in the Department to either freedmen or "refugees" beyond the present season, if the policy of Gen. Scott is carried out.

Faithful and efficient agents of the Bureau who have confined themselves to the legitimate means have been successful in their efforts to induce the freedmen to work, while incompetent and meddlesome "rents" wherever located have aroused bitter feelings and encountered opposition from the white people.

A very wholesome and acceptable reform in the administration of the Bureau in this department, can be effected, if all will resort to a considerable reduction of its expenses, would be to discontinue the paid citizen "cents" and substitute the military officers on duty in the State to perform such offices as may be required of the Bureau. This would be a saving of a very large amount.

On the 25th of May, Gen. Scott issued an order, "Bureau Missionary," "Bureau Print," and "Bureau Stoneloeper" can be dispensed with without detriment to either the Government or freedmen.

The first point at which we commenced our investigations was at the Bureau posts, we found Capt. Brig.-Gen. Eli. S. Allen, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau, in charge of an independent account of the Bureau, soon entering upon the discharge of his duties.

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